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# WYOMING HISTORICAL HANDBOOK



Chief Washakie, brave leader of the Shoshone Tribe. Washakie's burial ground is on Shoshone Indian Reservation in West-Central Wyoming.

# the first citizens



Centuries before the white man came, Wyoming's lush grass, its high mountain meadows, its vast timber stands were home to thousands of Indians. Huge Buffalo flourished on the grass, wild game lived in the forests, and the red men hunted them carefully, cautiously, for around these animals was centered the Indian's entire way of life — his food, his clothing, his shelter, and his religion.



# FOREWORD

**W**est of the Missouri River and east of Idaho lies a great tract of land over which the flags of Spain, France, England, Mexico, and the Republic of Texas have flown at various times in the past.

Battles between red and white men were fought here; beaver trapped and waged for in its mountain recesses; emigrant trails, which united the east coast with the west coast, passed through this area; cattle kingdoms grew and flourished on its vast plains; and, finally, a territory was organized here in 1868 to become the great state of Wyoming in 1890.

Although many fine histories have been written about Wyoming, many persons have asked for information covering the past and present of the State of Wyoming in shorter form.

So, it is to all those who have written requesting such information, and to those men and women who lived and made this illustrious history, that this historical handbook is dedicated.

THE WYOMING TRAVEL COMMISSION

*A fertile, majestic Wyoming mountain valley near Sunlight, 45 miles northwest of Cody.*





WYOMING  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
CHEYENNE

MILWARD L. SIMPSON  
GOVERNOR

R. M. MCANIS  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

TO THE READER OF THIS HANDBOOK:

The richness and endless variety of Wyoming's history, both past and present, are depicted in the following pages of this historical handbook.

To the Wyoming citizen, the handbook will serve as a reminder of the beauty, the magnificent scenery, and the heritage which was left to them by the founding fathers of the great State of Wyoming.

To the visitor, I extend a most cordial welcome to Wonderful Wyoming. Perhaps, this handbook will invite your attention to the peaceful valleys, the towering mountain ranges, and the rolling prairies as you travel in the Cowboy State. Therefore, we hope this handbook will help make your visit to the State of Wyoming more pleasant and profitable.

Remember, the latch string is always out in Wonderful Wyoming.

Sincerely,

*Milward L. Simpson*

MILWARD L. SIMPSON  
Governor

Milward L. Simpson, Governor  
of the state of Wyoming





*The Wyoming State Capitol  
houses the offices  
of the state officials, the  
state legislative chambers,  
and committee rooms.*

*Built in 1887 of  
sandstone, it is a  
three-and-a-half story  
building of neo-classic  
design. The golden dome  
rises 145 feet  
above the ground and  
is 50 feet in diameter.*

*Nearby are the State Supreme  
Court and State Office  
buildings. Together  
they comprise Wyoming's  
statehouse center.*





## EARLY HISTORY

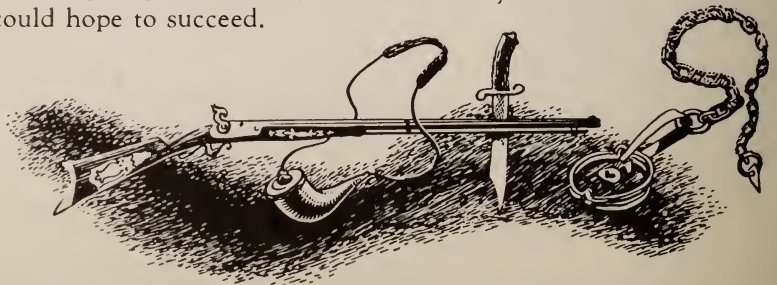
**T**he name WYOMING came from the Delaware Indians and it means "The End of the Plains." In addition to deriving its name from the Indians, the state of Wyoming was home to many roving tribes of Plains Indians among whom the Arapaho, Cheyenne, Crow, Sioux, and Shoshone were the strongest and principal groups.

Here at "The End of the Plains" these proud and dignified early Americans found immense herds of buffalo, antelope, deer, and elk feeding off the lush grass in the valleys and on the plains. It was the shaggy buffalo that the Indian relied upon as the main prop to his economy. But where white men marched, settled, and strung fences, the herds of buffalo began to disappear. With the disappearance of buffalo, so went the Indian's proud independence because he then had to rely upon the products of tilled soil and beef cattle for his very existence — both of which were owned by white men. All this resulted in growing friction, then skirmishes, and later open warfare between red and white men.

Probably the first white men to see what is now Wyoming were the Verendrye brothers, who were French Canadian explorers. Various historians claim the Verendryes saw the Big Horn mountain range in north-central Wyoming in January, 1743. However, better than 50 years passed before fur trappers, or mountain men, began to penetrate Wyoming. The trappers and explorers were the advance fringe of the white man's progress westward across the nation.

John Colter, a former member of the famed Lewis and Clark Expedition, explored what was ultimately to be known as Yellowstone National Park and the northern portion of Wyoming in 1807, some 64 years after the Verendrye brothers first gazed upon the towering Big Horns.

Generally speaking, the Rocky Mountain fur trading era reigned supreme from about 1807 until 1840. It was from the early buckskin-clad mountain men that information about the west and Wyoming was gained. This information was vital before any emigration movement could hope to succeed.





Chief Red Bear and Benjamin Mills, a U. S. Commissioner, meet in peace at Ft. Laramie in 1868.



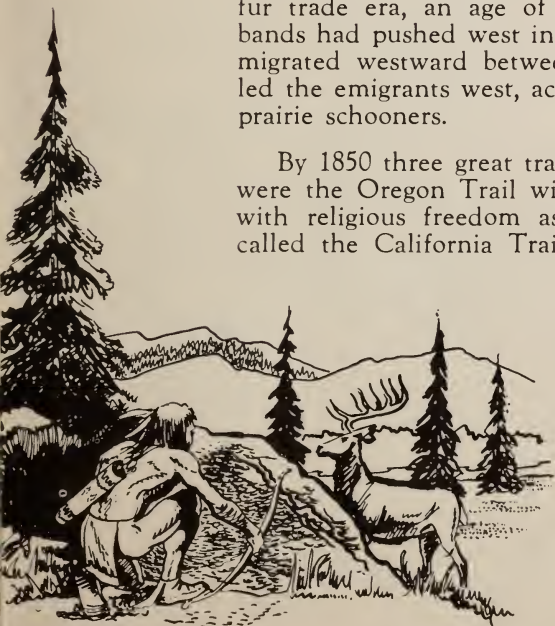
**T**raversing Wyoming from west to east in 1812-1813, Robert Stuart led six members of the ill-fated fur trading Astorians over the Continental Divide at or near famed South Pass. Pushing north and east, Stuart and his party followed the North Platte River Valley using roughly the same route which was to become known a few years later as the Oregon Trail.

By 1825 fur companies and brigades of trappers were gathering annually in various river valleys of Wyoming at predetermined meeting places, called a rendezvous, to trade beaver pelts for articles necessary to the fur trading industry. Here the trapper, and the Indian too, bartered his yearly catch of prime pelts for guns, beads, lead, powder, knives, traps, clothing and trinkets for trading with Indians. Famous men such as Kit Carson, Jim Bridger, General Ashley, Captain Bonneville, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Father Desmet, and the Sublette brothers were regular participants in these annual summer get-togethers.

As information about the central route over the Rockies which Stuart and the fur trappers used began to trickle back east, small parties of emigrants began to push their way west. The early emigrants used the trails made by the mountain men and the fur traders. Finally, the route these small bands traveled became known as the Oregon trail.

The end of the fur trade era was plainly marked by increasing trouble from Indians, by over-trapping, and because the silk hat was replacing the beaver hat on the European market. In place of the fur trade era, an age of mass emigration took place. Where small bands had pushed west in the late 1830's an estimated 300,000 people migrated westward between 1840 and 1870. Many a mountain man led the emigrants west, acting as scout or hunter for the slow-moving prairie schooners.

By 1850 three great trails had been carved across Wyoming. These were the Oregon Trail with free land as its goal; the Mormon Trail with religious freedom as its objective; and a complexity of trails called the California Trail with the newly discovered gold fields of California as its glittering magnet. Following the North Platte River Valley from east to west, all three trails left the North Platte at or near the present site of Casper and then struck to the south and west until they picked up the Sweetwater River.





*Historic South Pass City  
as it looks today.*



*Sutler's Store and Officer's Row  
at historic old Ft. Laramie.*

Passing Independence Rock west of Casper, hundreds of emigrants carved their names upon that unusual rock formation, many of which can still be observed today. Traveling up the Sweetwater and then leaving it to cross South Pass over the Continental Divide, the Oregon Trail wound its serpentine way north and west to Oregon; the Mormon Trail pushed south and west after leaving South Pass until it reached Utah; while the California Trail continued due west until it found California.





*The colors fly above Ft. Laramie's famous "Old Bedlam" building. Ft. Laramie was the early west's major military outpost.*



Since there were very few places where weary emigrants could stop and rest, both Ft. Laramie and Ft. Bridger became important havens of safety along these trails. At these posts, wagon trains paused to replenish their supplies and repair gear for the rest of the hazardous journey. After gold had been discovered in California, it was reckoned by Army officials that over 50,000 persons afoot, on horses and mules, or riding in wagons, passed by Ft. Laramie in the single year 1850.

With wary eyes, Indians watched this mass emigration movement. Debris strung along the trails; grass fires started; and the pall of disease that accompanied the wagon trains angered the redmen. Not only that, but game was disappearing wherever wagon trains rolled west. Raiding wagon trains in hopes of turning them back, the redmen harrassed and killed many bands of emigrants. Finally, the U. S. government ordered Army troops to be stationed along the trails for the protection of emigrants.

In August 19, 1854, Lt. Grattan, along with 28 soldiers and an interpreter from Ft. Laramie, attempted to arrest a Sioux who reportedly stole a cow from a passing caravan. A fight developed and an overpowering force of Sioux annihilated the entire command. The Grattan Massacre was among the first of a series of battles between the blue clad cavalry and the paint daubed red men.



*An early survey party fording one of Wyoming's high mountain streams during an exploratory trip.*





**W**hen the Civil War broke out, volunteer troops were sent west to man the lonely posts vacated by regular Army soldiers called east in the Union cause. During this period, and lasting until 1868, the Indians unleashed a series of spectacular and devastating attacks upon wagon trains, transportation and communication lines, and small outposts. Well known battles such as the Platte River Bridge Battle of 1865, the Fetterman Massacre of 1866, and the Wagon Box Fight of 1867 were bitterly fought between the Indians and the United States Government.

During this same period, a remarkable change in transportation and communication took place in Wyoming as well as the rest of the western portion of the nation. Great freighting firms such as Majors, Russell, and that of Waddell transported huge amounts of provisions to the various Army posts scattered along the trails used by emigrants. Only a few years later the famed Pony Express was born, and although it lasted only a short 18 months, the Pony Express left an indelible mark upon the pages of American history with men like Buffalo Bill Cody and Pony Bob Halsam serving as riders. When the nation was linked by telegraph wires in 1861 the Pony Express died as a coast-to-coast idea but carried on for several years in the more isolated portions of the Rocky Mountain west.



**S**tage lines, too, which had been rocking back and forth between the west coast and the Missouri River, faded away when the nation was tied together by railroads. Like the Pony Express, stage lines continued to operate for years carrying mail and passengers from the railroad towns into isolated areas. The Union Pacific entered Wyoming in 1867 and crossed the state, meeting the Central Pacific Railroad in Utah in 1869, a year after the Organic Act was signed creating Wyoming a territory.



Soon after Wyoming was created a territory in 1868, the cattle industry began to flourish on the area's vast grass prairies.





# TERRITORIALITY

*Esther Hobart Morris, the "mother" of Wyoming's woman's suffrage act.*



**T**he Wyoming Organic act was signed in 1868 creating Wyoming a territory. In October of 1869 Governor John A. Campbell convened the first territorial legislature in Cheyenne.

Probably the most important legislation the territorial legislature completed during its several years of operation was an act signed by Governor Campbell on December 10, 1869 granting equal rights to women for the first time in the history of the nation. In addition to rights of voting and holding public office, women of Wyoming Territory were also granted the right to serve on juries.

Known as the "Mother" of woman suffrage in Wyoming, Mrs. Esther Hobart Morris played a dramatic role in lobbying and setting the stage for the woman suffrage act. In 1870 she was appointed the first woman justice of the peace in the world. She handled over 40 cases while in office.

As a new territory, Wyoming counted several activities as foundation industries upon which to grow and develop. The most important were mining and railroading, with only a few short years to pass before livestock raising developed enough to be considered a major industry.

When the Carissa lode was discovered at South Pass a gold rush followed and South Pass City became the population center of the new territory. However, most people melted away a few years later when the find petered out. Today, South Pass City remains to serve as a classic example of a late 19th century gold rush community.

Knowing that enormous beds of bituminous coal lay along their route across Wyoming, the U.P.R.R. early began to utilize this coal as fuel for their locomotives. The mines at Almy,

*The first woman voter in Wyoming.*



*Dr. Katt, Wyoming's first woman doctor, and one of the first lady physicians in the U. S.*



Carbon, and Rock Springs were among the first in the Territory developed to supply the needs of the railroad. Even today, coal mining is one of Wyoming's major industries.

Following the U.P. and the coal mines along the southern border of Wyoming, cities and towns began to spring up almost over night. Rawlins, Green River, and Evanston were born as a direct result of the combined industries. Thus, the population center moved from the gold mining region near South Pass to the southern part of the territory which is, even now, the most heavily populated area in the state of Wyoming.

Shortly after Wyoming became a territory, Texas cattlemen initiated cattle drives to the north searching for new markets and open range for their herds of longhorns. Following what was to become known as the Texas Trail, thousands of Texas cattle poured into the new territory where cattlemen found the buffalo grass ranges to be excellent grazing land for their leg-weary cattle. In short, by 1870, a new age was born — the era of open range, cattle companies, and cowboys.

Controlling the range and building vast empires for their four-legged charges, the cattlemen soon became the major economic and political force in Wyoming territory. At the same time, the cowboy came into his own as one of the original and unique characters in the history of the nation. With his lariat, bull-hide chaps, high-heeled boots, ten-gallon hat, six-shooter, and cow pony, he took his proud place in our American heritage.

Several bitter and drastic winters in a row, the growth of the sheep and wool industry, and the rush to file on the open range for homesteads brought to a close the period of monster cattle empires run by the cattle barons. Irrigation and farming, too, began to claim their place alongside the cattle and sheep ranching with farm crops being those best suited for livestock feeding. Settlement also was on the upswing and the territory of Wyoming saw its population increase almost 300 per cent between 1870 and 1890, at which time the territory became the state of Wyoming, adding the 44th star to our nation's flag.







## STATEHOOD

**A**fter twenty-one years, the territory of Wyoming was admitted to the Union on July 10, 1890 as the 44th state. Under the state constitution, various articles provided for the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. Like every state in the Union except Nebraska, Wyoming has a bicameral legislature representing 23 counties. As for elective offices besides that of Governor, the people of Wyoming elect a Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor, and Superintendent of Public Instruction every four years. The judicial power of the state is invested in the senate sitting as a court of impeachment, in a supreme court, district courts, and various other lower courts.

Shortly after Wyoming was admitted to the Union, bitter feelings between various elements of the cattle industry led to the so-called Johnson County Cattle War of 1892. With the end of these hostilities bad feelings faded away and the cattle industry settled down to an age of fenced pastures, better breeding management, and steady growth. This industry is now one of Wyoming's major economic activities.

With high mountains providing wonderful summer range and valleys giving good winter range, the Wyoming sheep industry took gigantic strides forward during the early part of the twentieth century. Although it has been facing stiff competition from foreign woolgrowers and the development of new textiles, the sheep industry in Wyoming remains one of the top wool producers in the United States.

Beginning with the Homestead Act of 1862, a whole series of acts were passed by the Federal Government which opened a vast amount of public land in the west.



Wyoming State Bird  
The Meadow Lark



Wyoming State Flower  
The Indian Paint Brush

# The Equality State - The Cowboy State



In Wyoming these acts opened over two million acres of land to interested homesteaders. While most of it was quite arid, much was suitable for irrigation. Land and irrigation companies were formed. Federal and state aid was received and soon irrigated and dry farming areas began to appear in Wyoming.

In the past few years reclamation of marginal lands has been stepped up with huge water storage projects. Many similar projects are under consideration at the present time. So, all phases of agriculture — livestock raising, dry farming, and irrigated farming — have grown and will continue to develop rapidly as more and more land is reclaimed in Wyoming.

**C**ommercial operations in the petroleum industry and oil well drilling in Wyoming had been carried on for a number of years before the first full scale oil boom took place at Salt Creek near Casper in 1912. Only the year before the state's overall oil production was around 200,000 barrels. After the first gusher was brought in at Salt Creek, the annual production of crude oil mounted to almost 13,000,000 barrels in 1918 and some 90,000,000 barrels in 1955.

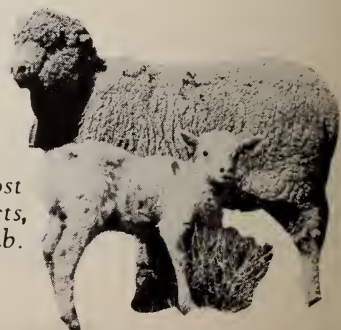
Today, Wyoming is one of the nation's leading producers of petroleum. Augmenting industry already established and bringing in many new residents, the petroleum industry has provided an important source of revenue for the state government, the state school system, and played a dramatic role in helping construct the fine network of state highways. With its refineries, pipe lines, and other related industries, oil has become one of Wyoming's leading industrial operations.

And petroleum experts say Wyoming's full oil potential has not yet been realized. With new drilling, refining, and conser-



*A Wyoming farmer, 1955  
version, irrigating sugar beets  
on a Shoshone project farm.*

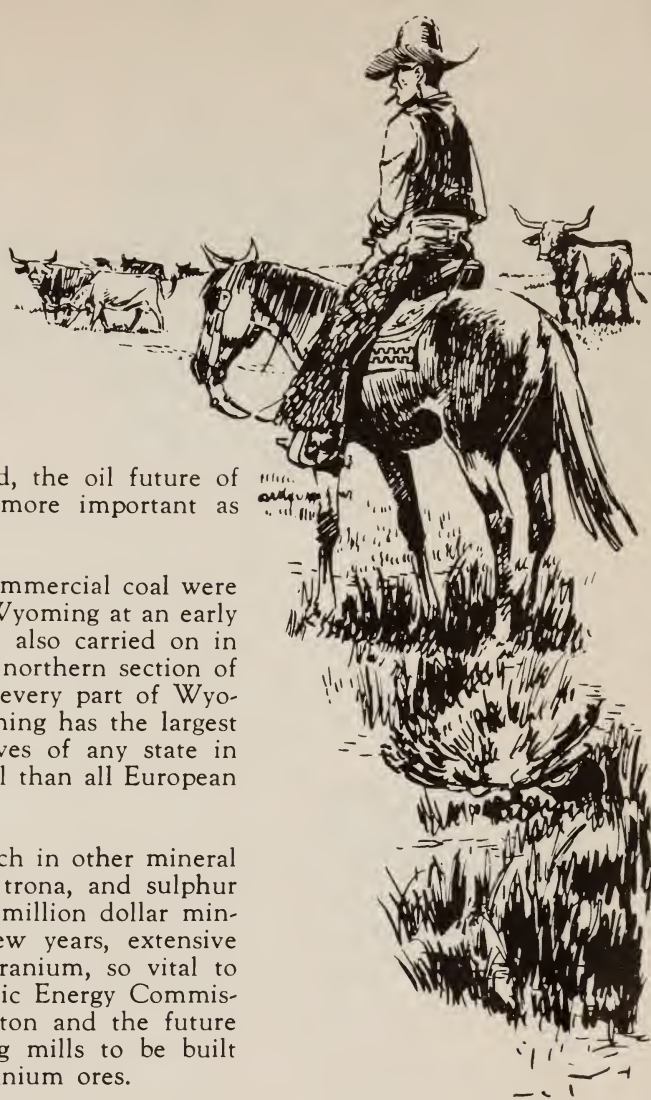
*Two of Wyoming's most  
important products,  
a ewe and her young lamb.*







*Wyoming cowboys brand calves on the open range of a Wyoming cattle ranch.*



vation techniques constantly being initiated, the oil future of Wyoming is sure to become more and more important as time passes.

**A**s mentioned previously, huge beds of commercial coal were discovered in the southern portion of Wyoming at an early date. Large coal mining operations are also carried on in the Sheridan and Gillette areas in the northern section of the state. Coal has been mined in almost every part of Wyoming and it has been reckoned that Wyoming has the largest bituminous and sub-bituminous coal reserves of any state in the Union. In fact, Wyoming has more coal than all European nations combined.

**I**n addition to coal and oil, the state is rich in other mineral resources. Natural gas, iron, bentonite, trona, and sulphur figure prominently in Wyoming's multi-million dollar mineral resources industry. In the past few years, extensive prospecting has led to the discovery of uranium, so vital to our nation in this day and age. The Atomic Energy Commission has erected a buying station at Riverton and the future indicates favorable prospects for processing mills to be built by private industry for the handling of uranium ores.

**S**erved by modern and constantly improving highways, bus lines, airlines, and railroads, Wyoming has experienced a tremendous growth in the tourist industry. Offering choice big-game hunting and excellent fishing, the state has become one of the nation's outstanding vacation areas. Modern accommodations and recreational features have been added to make the stay of the tourist more comfortable and an enjoyable experience.

*The high open ranges of Wyoming mountains afford ideal grazing grounds for millions of woolly sheep.*





*Inspirational Church of the Transfiguration in Wyoming's beautiful Jackson Hole country.*

How valuable the tourist industry is to Wyoming is illustrated by the fact that it ranks third in importance behind agriculture and oil in the state today.

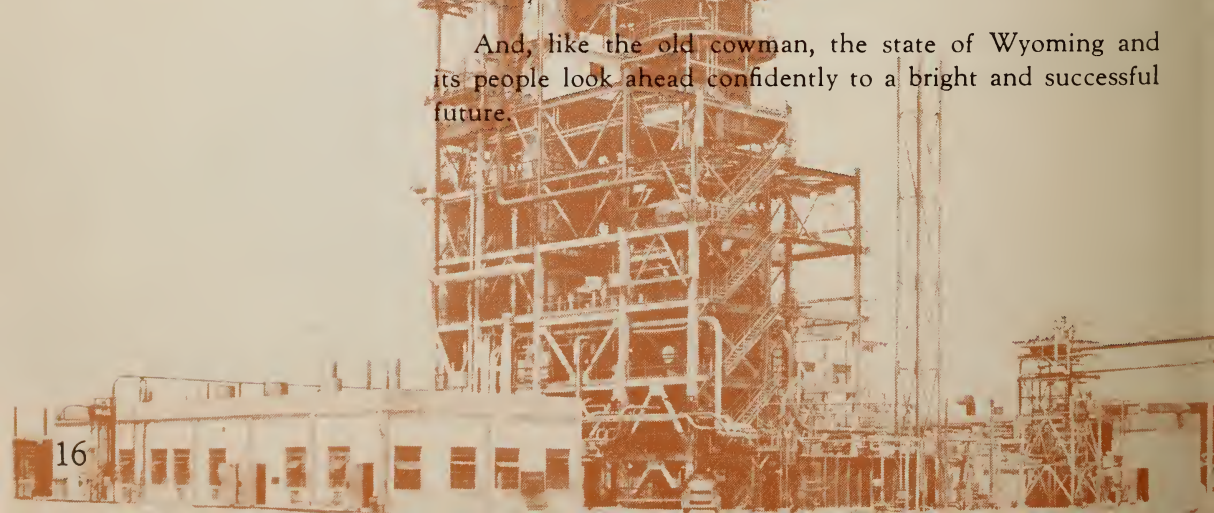
**A**s Wyoming has grown and developed through its natural resources, industrial skill, and wonderous scenic attractions, the state has still retained its western way of life.

Depicted in annual pageants, folk shows, and famed rodeos, the heritage of the west left to the people of Wyoming has been encouraged heartily by schools, churches, writers, painters, and various civic and service groups. Highly individualistic, the citizens of Wyoming, even those who are recent residents, have learned to depend upon themselves and are thus following a pattern laid down by the founders of the Cowboy State.

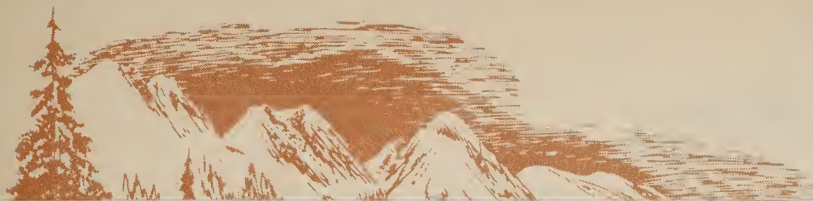


One of the best examples of the spirit of the west, Wyoming's most valued inheritance, is this story about a Wyoming cattleman a few years ago. His cattle herd decimated by drought, the rancher was asked what he was going to do. This was the seventh time he had been wiped out. Smiling, he replied that he was getting together a nice bunch of yearlings. Somehow he would get along — even though he was 82 years old.

And, like the old cowman, the state of Wyoming and its people look ahead confidently to a bright and successful future.







## GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

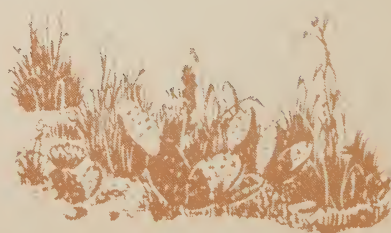


**W**yoming is bounded by six states: Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, and Utah. Except for Colorado, there is no other state in the Union enclosed by four straight lines.

Wyoming lies between 104 and 111 degrees longitude and between 41 and 45 degrees latitude in the heart of the Rocky Mountain region. If a straight line were drawn east to west across Wyoming the distance would be 375 miles, and from north to south, a distance of 276 miles. It is the eighth largest state in the Union, containing 97,914 square miles with almost 52 per cent of this area being owned and controlled by the Federal Government.

The highest point in the Continental Divide as it crosses Wyoming from the northwest corner to the southern border is Gannett Peak, 13,785 feet above sea level. This towering peak is also the highest point in Wyoming. The lowest point, 3,100 feet above sea level, is found in the Belle Fourche River valley in the northeastern portion of the state.

**E**ven though a good share of Wyoming is characterized by rolling plains and fertile valleys, much of the state is marked by mighty mountain ranges which seem to touch the sky with their lofty peaks. In the north and northeast, the Wyoming Black Hills and the Big Horn Mountains stand in pine-covered splendor. Rising to dizzy heights in the northwest, the Absaroka, Gros Ventre, Owl Creek, and Teton ranges stand. To the west, the Salt Creek and Wind River ranges punctuate the skyline. It is in the Wind River Range that Gannett Peak is located. The Sierra Madre, Medicine Bow, and Laramie Ranges are found in the southern portion of Wyoming. In addition to these eleven large ranges, Wyoming has many other





mountains which rise to heights between nine and ten thousand feet above sea level. These are the Aspen Mountains, Bear River Divide, Crooks Mountains, Seminoe Mountains, Green Mountains, and Granite Mountains.

**T**hree great rivers find their sources in Wyoming: the Columbia, the Colorado, and the Missouri rivers. The Missouri River is fed by the Yellowstone, Wind, Big Horn, Bell Fourche, Laramie, Sweetwater, and North Platte Rivers. The Green River flows into the mighty Colorado, and the Snake River feeds the beautiful Columbia.

Most of Wyoming's principal rivers have carved their way out of their mountain homes by cutting deep gorges and canyons. The sheer, breathtaking beauty of these canyons is unsurpassed anywhere. Even though there are no navigable rivers in the state, winding, churning rivers flowing through canyons such as the Wind River Canyon, the Yellowstone River Canyon, the Green River Canyon, the Shoshone River Canyon, and the North Platte River Canyon, provide enough rapid, tormented water for nationally famous, spine-tingling canyon boat races.



12,005 foot Medicine Bow Peak, stalwart guardian of southern Wyoming's Medicine Bow Range. Oil-surfaced State Highway 130 passes within rock-throwing distance of this mighty mountain bastion.

**P**leasant mountain valleys such as Jackson Hole, Star Valley, the Upper North Platte River Valley, and Sheridan Valley can be found resting between or beside towering mountain ranges. On the other hand, equally pleasant and fertile farm valleys are found in the Big Horn Basin, Shirley Basin, Goshen Hole, and the Green River Basin alongside quiet flowing streams and rivers. In these valleys are produced some of the finest farm crops, as well as beef and dairy cattle in the world.



**B**alanced as the state is, on a high plateau laced by large ranges of mountains, the climate varies from extreme cold periods in winter to warm, sunny days in the summer. However, the sun shines on an average of 300 days per year in Wyoming. In line with the high plateau on which Wyoming rests, the average growing season ranges from about 60 days in elevated Teton County to almost 150 days in lower Washakie County.

**T**he temperature averages about 42 degrees, with the warmest day on record being well over 100 degrees in the Big Horn Basin some 50 years ago. Occasionally the temperature in the state's high mountain areas drops to from 40 to 50 below zero in the winter. Yet, because of the high altitude, so many days of sunshine, and a low humidity count, even the coldest days are not known to be exceptionally uncomfortable.

**T**he average rainfall in Wyoming is about 14 inches each year. It varies considerably, however, with the smallest amount of rainfall being recorded in the northern end of the Big Horn Basin at 5 inches for one year. The highest amount was recorded only a few miles away in the northeast corner of Yellowstone National Park at 38 inches.

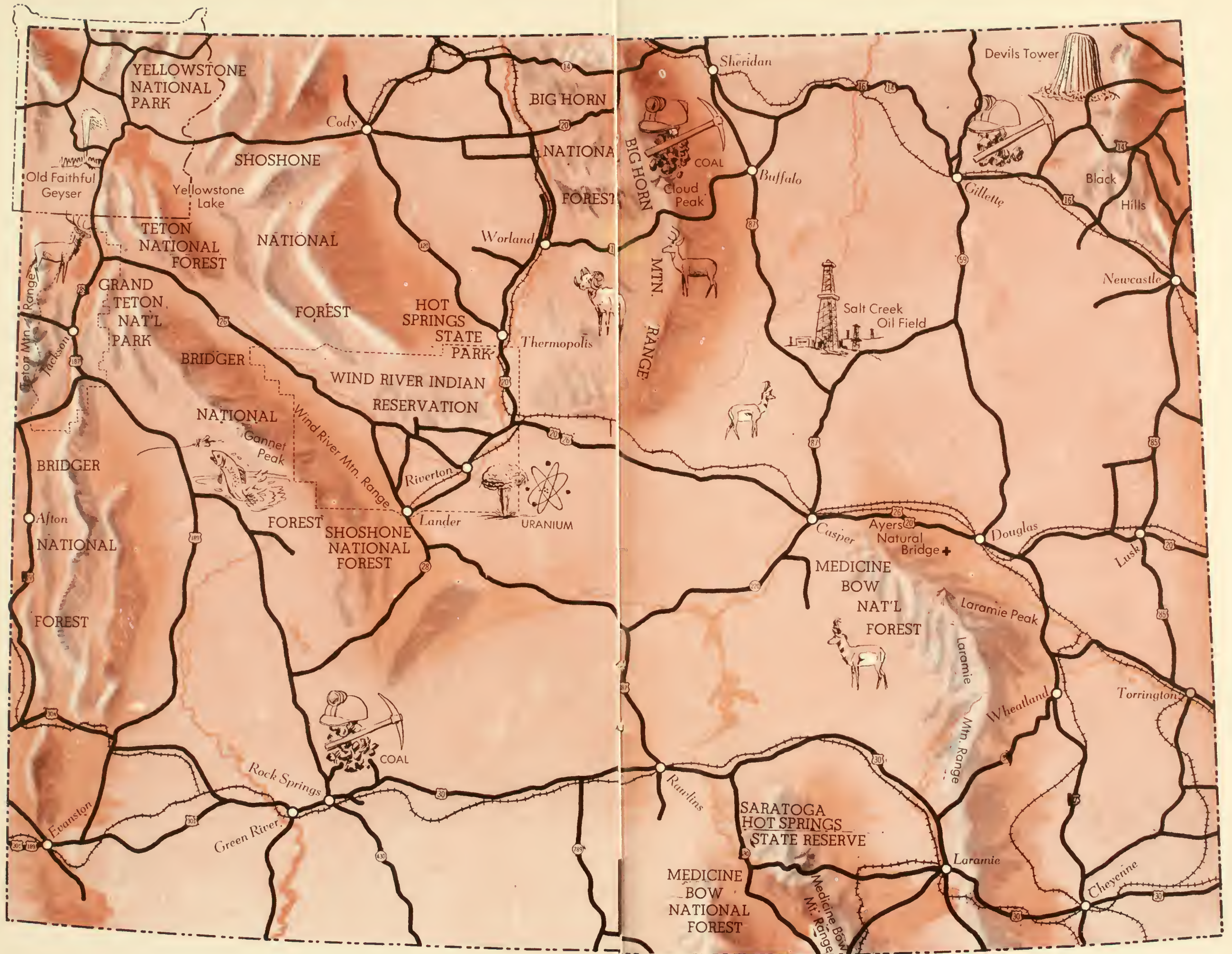


*Dinwoody Glacier on Gannett Peak in Wyoming's Wind River Mountains. One of the largest ice fields in the U. S., it also marks Wyoming's highest elevation.*











# FORESTS, PARKS, and MONUMENTS



**W**onderful Wyoming is one of the nation's favorite playgrounds, probably due to the fact that one-seventh of the state is given over to national forests, national parks, and national monuments. These comprise some 2,000,000 acres of land, all preserved against the ravages of commercialism.

Five national forests are located entirely within Wyoming. They are the Big Horn, the Bridger, the Medicine Bow, the Shoshone, and the Teton. Four other national forests penetrate Wyoming from neighboring states. These are Ashley, Black Hills, Caribou, and Targhee. The Shoshone National Forest was the first in the nation to be created by the federal government on March 30, 1891 — and within its boundaries is the nation's first ranger station, the Wapiti (meaning Elk in Indian language) station, built in 1903-04. Each year millions of people visit these national forests to enjoy camping, hunting, fishing, pack trips, horseback riding, or simply looking at the scenery, unimpaired by modern progress.

No western visit would be complete without seeing Yellowstone National Park, that fantastic area in northwestern Wyoming declared America's first national park by President U. S. Grant in 1872. Additional millions of people each year see such Yellowstone wonders as:

Old Faithful Geyser sending its mighty column of hot water over a hundred feet into the air every hour of the day and night.

Phenomenal trout fishing at Fishing Bridge and in Yellowstone Lake, one of the largest bodies of fresh water in the United States.

The Upper Falls of the Yellowstone River with its stupendous drop of 109 feet and the magnificent Lower Falls with a drop of 308 feet, twice the drop of famed Niagra.

The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River whose walls boast every color of the rainbow.

Geyser Basin with its many hot water geysers sending blossoms of steam puffing up in the air in the same manner an old steam engine labors up a steep grade.

Mr. Bruin (bear to the uninitiated) begging morsels of food from passing cars and travelers.

Grand Teton National Park, which earned its recognition in 1929, lies only a few miles south of Yellowstone. Drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, it embraces the breathtaking Teton Mountain range, known as the "Alps of America." The Tetons, a mountain-climber's heaven, march for over 40 miles north and south piercing the sky with ten major peaks from 11,000 to 13,000 feet above sea level. Jackson and Jenny Lakes at the foot of the Tetons offer superb fishing.







Independence Rock, landmark  
of the Oregon Trail,  
near present site of Casper.



Fantastic Devil's Tower,  
America's first National  
Monument. It is  
a geologic mystery.



Statue of Buffalo Bill Cody,  
erected in the famous scout's  
memory, Cody, Wyoming.

**A**mong Wyoming's many other "national" areas well worth visiting are: DEVIL'S TOWER in the northeastern corner of the state. This huge vertical column, rising 1,280 dizzy feet straight up, was declared America's first national monument in 1906. It remains one of the world's major geologic mysteries.

SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CAVERN near Cody, owned by that city, was discovered by Ned Frost in 1908. With several miles of caverns, chambers, and wierd limestone formations, it is compared to world-famed Carlsbad Caverns. It has never been fully explored.

FT. LARAMIE National Monument, named as such in 1938, is located in the southeastern portion of the State. Opened as a fur trading post in 1834, it was manned by Army troops from 1849 until 1890, when abandoned. Recent restoration has brought the haunting ruins to vivid life. FT. BRIDGER in the southwestern part of Wyoming and FT. CASPAR, near Casper, are other interesting examples of old frontier forts.

HOT SPRINGS STATE PARK, secured by treaty from the Indians in 1896, is near Thermopolis. It is the world's largest mineral hot springs, flowing 18,600,000 gallons at 135 degrees every 24 hours. Besides unusual beauty, the park contains a modern bath house and a large buffalo herd.


SARATOGA HOT SPRINGS STATE RESERVE near Saratoga is similar to Hot Springs. People suffering from arthritis or rheumatism will enjoy baths in either park.

AYER'S NATURAL BRIDGE near Douglas is a 30-foot high, 50 foot wide phenomena looking down over a 15-acre amphitheater. It is a fine picnicing and camping area.

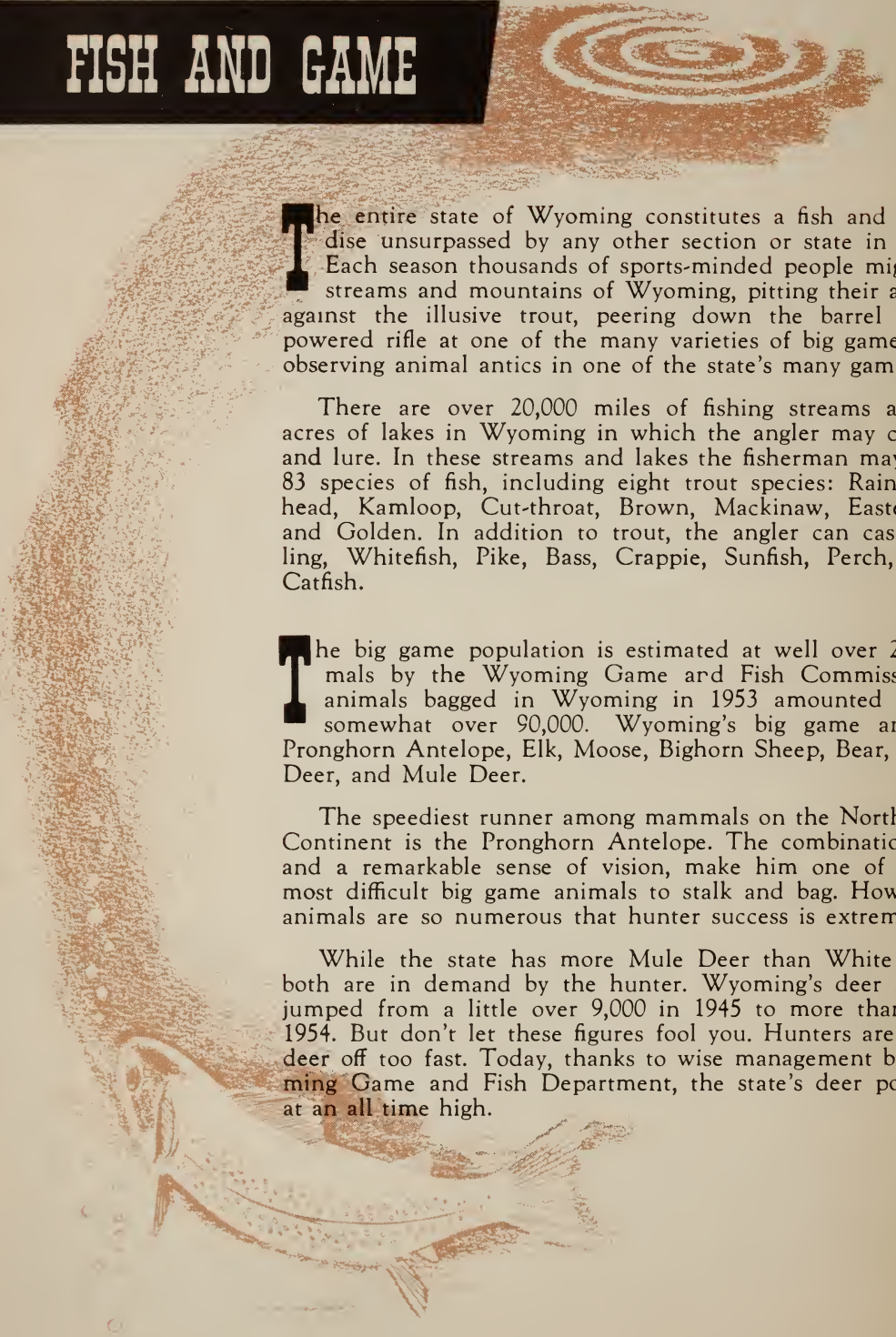
WIND RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION, a half-million acres of land in the Wind River Valley near Lander and Riverton, serves as home for the Shoshone and Araphaho Indian nations. Reservation headquarters are at Ft. Washakie, named after the Shoshone's revered chief, Washakie. The reservation occupies some of the most beautiful and fertile land in Wyoming.

In addition to more than 100 camp sites maintained by the state, a multitude of scenic attractions and points of interest are well marked. Combining these attractions with the wonders of national parks, forests, and monuments, Wyoming takes her place as one of the nation's outstanding vacation lands.





# FISH AND GAME



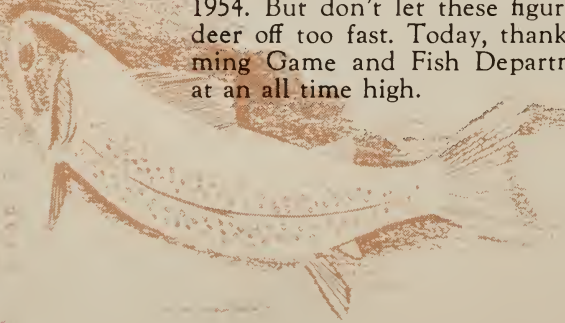
**T**he entire state of Wyoming constitutes a fish and game paradise unsurpassed by any other section or state in the nation. Each season thousands of sports-minded people migrate to the streams and mountains of Wyoming, pitting their angling skill against the illusive trout, peering down the barrel of a high-powered rifle at one of the many varieties of big game, or simply observing animal antics in one of the state's many game preserves.

There are over 20,000 miles of fishing streams and 130,000 acres of lakes in Wyoming in which the angler may cast his line and lure. In these streams and lakes the fisherman may find some 83 species of fish, including eight trout species: Rainbow, Steelhead, Kamloop, Cut-throat, Brown, Mackinaw, Eastern, Brook, and Golden. In addition to trout, the angler can cast for Grayling, Whitefish, Pike, Bass, Crappie, Sunfish, Perch, Ling, and Catfish.

**T**he big game population is estimated at well over 200,000 animals by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. Game animals bagged in Wyoming in 1953 amounted to a figure somewhat over 90,000. Wyoming's big game animals are: Pronghorn Antelope, Elk, Moose, Bighorn Sheep, Bear, White Tail Deer, and Mule Deer.

The speediest runner among mammals on the North American Continent is the Pronghorn Antelope. The combination of speed and a remarkable sense of vision, make him one of Wyoming's most difficult big game animals to stalk and bag. However, these animals are so numerous that hunter success is extremely high.

While the state has more Mule Deer than White Tail Deer, both are in demand by the hunter. Wyoming's deer harvest has jumped from a little over 9,000 in 1945 to more than 50,000 in 1954. But don't let these figures fool you. Hunters are not killing deer off too fast. Today, thanks to wise management by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, the state's deer population is at an all time high.





**T**he American Elk, or Wapiti as the Indians have named them, have become a prime objective for many big game hunters. Besides the tingling thrill of bagging a magnificent bull elk, the 300 to 400 pounds of choice meat the elk provides for the hunter's table makes the effort well worthwhile.

A mature bull moose, in all his ugly massiveness, will weigh as much as 1,000 pounds. The moose is the largest of all Wyoming big game animals and its stalking and subsequent bagging provides the hunter with some thoroughly exciting sport.

Considered absolutely tops in hunting and stalking by some hunters is Wyoming's rare Bighorn Sheep. Seeking out one of these animals offers a sport altogether different from hunting deer, antelope, elk, or moose. A great deal of skill, patience, and even mountain climbing ability is required of the hunter before he bags a Bighorn Sheep. Nearly always the hunter must search out the Bighorn high in almost inaccessible mountain areas. The going is usually rugged but the resulting trophy is well worth this supreme hunting effort.

**B**ear hunting in Wyoming is usually best in the spring of the year when the hunter seeks one of the state's few Grizzlies or one of its numerous Black Bears. While the Grizzlies are more ferocious, the Black Bear is a cunning foe. In Wyoming the Black Bear is considered a "bonus" animal. That is, this bear is offered to the big game hunter along with the purchase of a big game license that primarily includes a deer and an elk. Stalking and bagging one of the big fellows, however, is another matter and most hunters don't consider the bear a "bonus" at all.

In addition to fishing and big game hunting, game bird hunting is also popular in Wyoming. Pheasant, Sage Hen, Duck, Grouse, Goose, and Wild Turkey are plentiful. A definite season set by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission protects these birds and yet gives the hunter ample time to bag his limit.



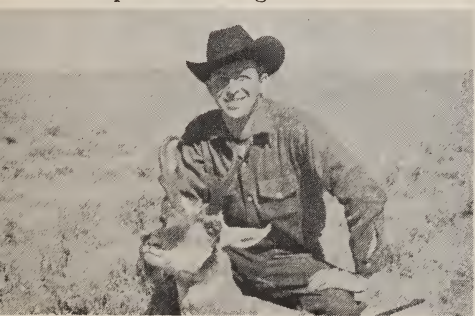
A proud hunter displays the reward of his skill and courage — a Bighorn Sheep.



Sizzling mountain trout, freshly caught, golden flapjacks make a fine "camping" breakfast.



Bounding speed and fine vision make these Wyoming Antelope hard targets.



A catch of Wyoming Rainbow Trout out of the state's 20,000 miles plus of fishing streams.



**W**yoming sells more non-resident hunting licenses than any other state in the Union.

In fact, Wyoming sells over ten per cent of the non-resident hunting licenses sold in the United States. Despite this fact, and because Wyoming has such a small human population and vast acres of big game habitat, competition in the hunting field is not nearly so great as in the more populous states. Nor is hunting so dangerous in Wyoming as in other states. The huge tracts of land enable hunters to roam freely without the risk of being mistaken for game by less careful hunters. Hunting accidents of this nature, in fact, are rare indeed in Wyoming.

**A**s there is ample opportunity for the hunter in Wyoming, so is there much enjoyment for the naturalist who, instead of shooting game with a high-powered rifle, does his shooting with a camera or paint brush. Vast game reserves dot the state and here the naturalist may move at ease through beautiful terrain as he seeks out hundreds of varieties of big and small game.

Thus, with excellent supervision by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the Federal Government, the hunter, the fisherman, and the naturalist can fulfill his fondest hunting, fishing, or camera dream in Wyoming.





## SPORTS

*A skier in action on Snow King Mountain above the town of Jackson.*



*A tough "Waddie" rides a bucking bronc at world-famed Cheyenne Frontier Days.*



*Just about everybody goes fishing in Wyoming. Here eager hands land a big one.*



Wyoming's very terrain suggests out-of-door sports and recreation. Thousands of miles of streams, hundreds of lakes naturally make fishing a leading activity. This vast amount of water also makes aquatic sports popular, such as water skiing, motor boating, swimming, and rapids running.

Hunting and nature study also occupy a great deal of time for both natives and visitors.

Perhaps Wyoming's major contribution to the world of sport is the rodeo. Over 50 of these exciting, colorful contests are held in the state each summer, drawing thousands of spectators to watch the lean cowboys ride bucking broncs and rope wily calves and steers. Today, some 13,000,000 people watch rodeos in America each year, attesting to the popularity of this rugged sport.

Dude Ranching, with its attendant activities of fishing, camping, riding, etc. is another major Wyoming past time, as is mountain climbing and hiking.

Heavy high mountain snowfalls make Wyoming a winter sports haven, too. Skiing, tobogganing, cutter racing, ice skating, and ice fishing are all popular. Ski lifts and lodges are in operation in many areas, and transportation facilities to really "good" skiing are excellent.

The University of Wyoming provides the intercollegiate thrills for Wyomingites. Called the Cowboys, the University's teams are always among the top contenders for Sky-line Conference honors in football, basketball, baseball, and track competition. Cowboy basketball teams are consistently among the nation's top ten and its 1951 football team, played in the Gator Bowl.

Little Theater acting, concerts, pageants are constantly encouraged and enjoyed by the people of Wyoming. Perhaps one of the outstanding productions is the historical pageant depicting the state's history. During the summer months, outdoor performances of this type are staged all over Wyoming.

However, one doesn't have to engage in any active sport in order to enjoy Wyoming. Just looking at snow-capped mountains, enjoying the beauty of wild game, or watching fish rise from the surface of a blue-tinted lake at evening provides a recreational reward beyond description in Wonderful Wyoming.



## EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

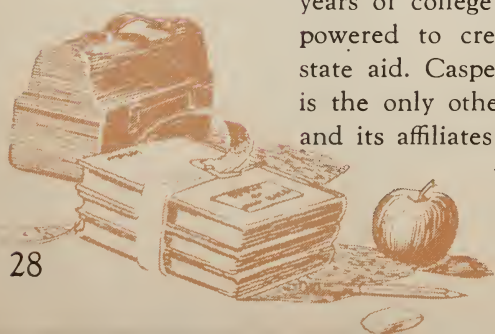
**E**ducation, early in Wyoming's history, was found mostly on Army posts. Usually a non-commissioned officer who had been well educated was appointed post teacher. Generally his young charges were the offspring of married couples who lived on the post. However, ranchers and traders were allowed to send their children to these early schools with the commanding officer's permission.

As time passed and more and more people moved into the area, various school laws were passed by the territorial and state legislatures, guaranteeing educational opportunities and facilities to all the people of Wyoming.

Today, one of the five elective officers in Wyoming is the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who heads the state school system. In addition to serving on the State Board of Education as an ex-officio member, the State Superintendent also serves on various other state boards. Among the duties of the State Superintendent and an appointed Commissioner of Education are the general supervision of the public school system; certifying teachers; helping county superintendents with rural school problems; special education for handicapped children; inspection of schools; approving textbooks; and maintaining a teacher placement bureau.

The County Superintendent of Schools directs and supervises all rural county schools. In towns, school districts are under the jurisdiction of elected school boards whose members serve without compensation.

Known as university centers, three junior colleges located at Powell, Sheridan, and Torrington, are affiliated with the University of Wyoming. All three provide instruction in the first two years of college work. By legislative act in 1945, cities were empowered to create junior colleges without the promise of any state aid. Casper Junior College was created in this manner and is the only other school in Wyoming besides the state university and its affiliates offering instruction beyond the high school level.





Boasting the highest college campus in America, the coolest summer school in America, and the only four-year college in the state, the University of Wyoming is a modern, growing institution located at Laramie, Wyoming. It was founded in territorial days in 1887, a scant decade after Custer's Massacre. The city of

Laramie, site of the first woman jury in history, and home of Bill Nye, was then hardly twenty years old, having been born with the country's first transcontinental railroad. Yet today, by a wise provision which grants the University a portion of the state's considerable oil royalties, the University of Wyoming has a fine building program and a first class curriculum in the colleges of Agriculture, Liberal Arts, Education, Engineering, Law, Commerce and

Pharmacy, plus excellent divisions in music, art, dramatics, forestry, and pre-medicine. The University recently added a new fieldhouse and stadium as well as new housing for the colleges of Agriculture, Education, Geology, and Law.

The University of Wyoming also maintains a summer camp in nearby Medicine Bow range, at an elevation of 9,000 feet above sea level. Enthusiasts for Wyoming point out that the summer climate is ideal, rarely passing 85 degrees in mid-summer; and that the winter climate is less severe than that of many northern schools.

Thus, the state of Wyoming boasts primary, secondary, and collegiate educational facilities which are among the very best in the nation.

*Above: The Student Union Building on the University of Wyoming's outstanding, modern campus.*

*Opposite: Jireh Jr. College near Manville. An early Wyoming school, it is no longer in existence.*



# SUMMARY

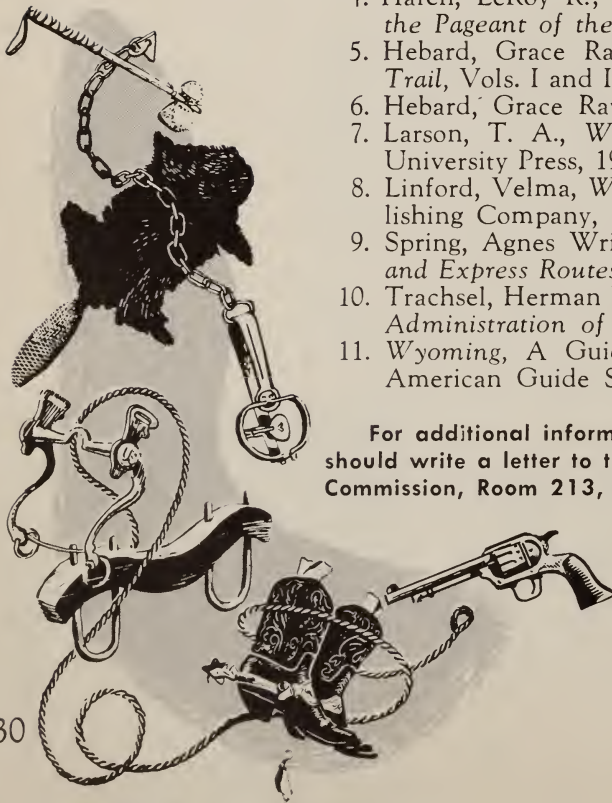
**T**he area now known as the state of Wyoming, witnessed many colorful and historic events which tended to mold the character of the state today. Indians, explorers, mountain men, soldiers, emigrants, hunters, stage coach drivers, Pony Express riders, early railroaders, cowboys, cattle barons, sheepmen, oil men, prospectors, and professional men and women all made definite and courageous contributions to Wyoming's exciting past.

And now, taking up the challenge left to them by the state's indomitable founders, modern businessmen and women, farmers, ranchers, miners, railroaders, and professional men and women are continually adding to the glorious past and at the same time shaping the great state of Wyoming's impressive future. All indications point up the fact that Wyoming's natural resources, industry, and business opportunities have barely been tapped, which means in terms of prosperity and success, a bright and solid future for Wonderful Wyoming.

**F**or those who are interested in reading more about the state of Wyoming, both past and present, the following bibliography has been prepared:

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For additional information about Wonderful Wyoming, the reader should write a letter to the Secretary-Manager of the Wyoming Travel Commission, Room 213, Capitol Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming.





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